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LETTER DATED 23 JULY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FINLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement by the Presidency of the European Union on Angola, which was issued on 22 July 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Marjatta RASI
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 22 July 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on Angola

The European Union deeply deplores the resumption of civil war in Angola, for which the responsibility lies primarily with the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA) under the leadership of Dr. Jonas Savimbi. The European Union intends to intensify its efforts to prevent UNITA from continuing the civil war in Angola in persistent defiance of Security Council resolutions and to encourage UNITA to return to the peace process.

In this regard, the European Union once more stresses its commitment to maintaining strong international pressure on UNITA and its leadership through the full implementation, by all States Members of the United Nations, of United Nations sanctions against UNITA. It welcomes the decisions contained in Security Council resolution 1237 (1999) aimed at improving the implementation of the sanctions regime against UNITA and supports the recommendations thereafter suggested in a report to the Security Council dated 4 June 1999 (S/1999/644) by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 864 (1993).

The European Union remains convinced that lasting peace in Angola can only be achieved through political means. It therefore strongly urges UNITA and its leadership to cease its military activities and to demonstrate, unequivocally, its will to resume dialogue in good faith with the Government of Angola on the basis of the resolutions of the Security Council, with a view to the demilitarization of UNITA and the extension of State administration throughout the country. Provided that UNITA takes such action, the European Union calls upon the Government to respond favourably to the ceasefire and to enter into a dialogue. The European Union also calls upon the Government to accept a significant United Nations presence in Angola compatible with the enormous tasks facing the country. The European Union considers that a United Nations presence, including a human rights component, can contribute positively to a peaceful settlement of the Angolan conflict.

The European Union regards peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as essential for the stability of the region and for restoring peace in Angola and welcomes the recent ceasefire agreement in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In this context the European Union is ready to assist all States in Africa to fully implement the United Nations sanctions against UNITA effectively. The European Union welcomes the contacts between the Governments of Angola and Zambia and encourages them to pursue these contacts, in order to foster stability in southern Africa.

The European Union is deeply concerned that as a consequence of the latest outbreak of hostilities the number of refugees and displaced persons has risen dramatically, putting at risk the lives and well-being of a large part of the population. The European Union is particularly alarmed by the number of

internally displaced persons, now estimated at 1.7 million. The European Union reiterates its appeal to the Government of Angola and UNITA to respect human rights and to cooperate with the humanitarian organizations in the delivery of emergency relief assistance, to guarantee the safety and freedom of movement of their personnel, as well as access to affected populations. The European Union will continue to make all efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the victims of the conflict and to support demining.

The European Union calls again upon the Government, as a signatory to the Ottawa Convention, but in particular upon UNITA, to cease mine-laying activities immediately.

The European Union welcomes the recent efforts made by the Government to implement reforms aimed at stabilizing the economic and financial situation of the country. It encourages the Government of Angola to continue these efforts and the fight against corruption and poverty, which are essential for a meaningful and fruitful international cooperation.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated country Cyprus and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with the present statement.